

Chester J. Culver, Governor
Patty Judge, Lt. Governor

David Neil, Labor Commissioner



Smart. Results.

Division of Labor Services

Date

CEO of Facility

[Company]

[Company2]

[Address]

[City], [State] [Zip]

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing today to bring to your attention an issue of critical importance to you, your employees and your company. Since 1999 several employees have been killed and countless others injured in dust explosions. Combustible dusts are often either organic or metal dusts that are finely ground into very small particles, fibers, fines, chips, chunks, flakes, or a small mixture of these. When these particles become airborne and come in contact with an ignition source a deadly explosion could occur.

Your establishment has been identified as being in an industry that often faces this potentially deadly hazard. To assist your organization in identifying and abating combustible dust hazards, I call your attention to the Safety and Health Information Bulletin (SHIB), Combustible Dust in Industry: Preventing and Mitigating the Effects of Fire and Explosions, which may be accessed at www.osha.gov, In Focus, [Safety and Health Information Bulletin](#). It is imperative that you take the time to review the information in this bulletin and take necessary steps to prevent such potentially lethal hazards. Failure to attend to housekeeping standards or to conduct maintenance on your ventilation systems or electrical controls places your employees and your facility at risk.

Iowa OSHA is available to provide assistance to companies facing all types of safety and health hazards. Iowa OSHA's onsite consultation program, which is designed primarily for small employers (companies of 250 or fewer employees) can help you identify safety and health hazards including combustible dust hazards in your workplace and find effective solutions for eliminating or controlling those hazards. This program is operated separately from Iowa OSHA's enforcement program. The service is free and confidential. In addition, the consultant can assist you in developing and implementing a safety and health management system for your workplace.

If you have any further questions, please call our office. Information on both our enforcement and consultation programs is available at www.iowaworkforce.org. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Bryant
IOSH Administrator

Division of Labor Services

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www.iowaworkforce.org/labor

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